

Iowa Child and Family Service Review

Final Report
October, 2003

CFSR Briefing Agenda

- Brief overview of CFSR outcomes, systemic factors and steps
- Review of findings in final report
- Summary of strengths and challenges
- Next steps

CFSR Outcomes

- Safety 1 - Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.
- Safety 2 - Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.
- Permanency 1 - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations
- Permanency 2 - The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

CFSR Outcomes Cont.

- Well-Being 1 - Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Well-Being 2 - Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Well-Being 3 - Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

CFSR Data Indicators

- Safety Outcome 1
 - Recurrence of maltreatment
 - Incidence of abuse/neglect in foster care
- Permanency Outcome 1
 - Foster care re-entries
 - Length of time to achieve reunification
 - Length of time to achieve adoption
 - Stability of foster care placements

CFSR Systemic Factors

- Statewide Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Responsiveness to Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention

CFSR Steps

- State Data Profile (1999 - 2001)
- State Self-Assessment (March 2003)
- On-Site Review -- Linn, Polk & Woodbury Counties (May 19 - 23, 2003)
- Final Report (October 2003)
- Program Improvement Plan (due December 2003)

How is substantial conformity determined?

- Outcomes

- Relevant onsite indicators must be substantially achieved in 90% of all cases reviewed
- Relevant data indicators must meet national standard (set at 75th percentile)
- Each onsite indicator is rated individually as strength or area needing improvement (ANI). Indicator must be achieved in 85% of cases reviewed to be rated a strength

- Systemic Factors

- Relevant indicators must be rated 3 or 4 on scale of 1- 4

Safety 1 - Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect

- Substantially achieved in 82.9% of cases
- Indicators
 - Timeliness of investigations - ANI
 - On-site -- 73% (area needing improvement)
 - Repeat maltreatment -- ANI
 - On-site -- 92% (strength)
 - Statewide data -- 11.2% (nat'l std: 6.1% or less)
 - Abuse/neglect in foster care -- ANI
 - Statewide data (0.57% or less) -- 0.89%

Safety 2 - Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible & appropriate

- Substantially achieved in 93.5% of cases
- Indicators
 - Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal - Strength
 - On-site -- 100% (strength)
 - Management of risk of harm to child -- Strength
 - On-site -- 93% (strength)

Permanency 1 - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations

- Substantially achieved in 50.0 % of cases
- Indicators
 - Foster care re-entries - ANI
 - On-site -- 60%
 - Statewide data -- 25% (nat'l std: 8.6% or less)
 - Stability of foster care placement - ANI
 - On-site -- 82% (area needing improvement)
 - Statewide data -- 88.8% (nat'l std: 86.7% or more)
 - Permanency goal for child - ANI
 - On-site -- 75% (area needing improvement)

P1 - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations

- Indicators continued
 - Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement with Relatives -- Strength
 - On-site -- 92% (strength)
 - Statewide data -- 81.1% (nat'l std: 76.2% or more)
 - Adoption - ANI
 - On-site -- 55% (area needing improvement)
 - Statewide data -- 49% (nat'l std: 32.0% or more)
 - Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement - ANI
 - On-site -- 80% (area needing improvement)

Permanency 2 - Continuity of family relationships & connections is preserved for children

- Substantially achieved in 82.1% of cases
- Indicators
 - Proximity of foster care placement - Strength
 - On-site -- 95% (strength)
 - Placement with siblings - Strength
 - On-site -- 88% (strength)
 - Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care - Strength
 - On-site -- 85% (strength)

Permanency 2 - Continuity of family relationships & connections is preserved for children

- Indicators continued
 - Preserving connections -- ANI
 - On-site -- 79% (area needing improvement)
 - Relative placement - ANI
 - On-site -- 77% (area needing improvement)
 - Relationship of child in care with parents - ANI
 - On-site -- 79% (area needing improvement)

Well-Being 1 - Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs

- Substantially achieved in 24.0% of cases
- Indicators
 - Needs & services of child, parents, foster parents (72%) - ANI
 - Child & family involvement in case planning (66%) - ANI
 - Caseworker visits with child (10%) - ANI
 - Caseworker visits with parents (23%) - ANI

Well-Being 2 - Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

- Substantially achieved in 92.7% of cases
- Indicators
 - Educational needs of the child (93%) - Strength

Well-Being 3 - Children receive adequate services to meet their physical & mental health needs

- Substantially achieved in 78.7% of cases
- Indicators
 - Physical health of the child (89%) - Strength
 - Mental health of the child (86%) - Strength

Statewide Information System

- Rated 3 - substantial conformity
- Indicator(s)
 - State is operating a statewide information that can readily identify status, demographic info, location, & goals for every child in foster care -
- Strength

Case Review System

- Rated 2 - not in substantial conformity
- Indicator(s)
 - Written case plan developed jointly with child's parents - ANI
 - Periodic review of status at least every 6 months by court or administrative review - Strength
 - Permanency hearing at 12 months -- Strength

Case Review System continued

- Indicator(s) continued
 - Process for termination of parental rights consistent with ASFA - Strength
 - Process for foster parents, preadoptive parents, relative caregivers to be notified & have opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing - ANI

Quality Assurance System

- Rated 2 - not in substantial conformity
- Indicators
 - Standards to ensure children in foster care are provided quality services that protect safety & health -- strength
 - State operating identifiable QA system across state that evaluates service quality, identifies strengths & needs, provides reports, & evaluates program improvement -- ANI

Training

- Rated 2 - not in substantial conformity
- Indicators
 - Initial training for staff - ANI
 - On-going training for staff - ANI
 - Training for foster and adoptive parents, & staff of state licensed facilities - Strength

Service Array

- Rated 1 - not in substantial conformity
- Indicator(s)
 - Services to enable children to remain safely with their parents, & help children in foster & adoptive placements achieve permanency - ANI
 - Services accessible to families & children statewide - ANI
 - Services can be individualized to meet unique needs of children & families - ANI

Agency Responsiveness to Community

- Rated 4 - substantial conformity
- Indicator(s)
 - Ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, juvenile court, & others - Strength
 - Annual reports of progress on state plan - Strength
 - Child welfare services coordinated with services or benefits of other federal programs - Strength

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment & Retention

- Rated 4 - substantial conformity
- Indicators
 - Standards for foster family homes & child care institutions reasonably in accord with recommended national standards - Strength
 - Standards applied to all licensed foster care settings - Strength

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment & Retention continued

- Indicator(s) continued
 - Criminal background checks for all foster care and adoptive placements, and case planning process addresses placement safety - Strength
 - Diligent recruitment of potential foster/adoptive families that reflect ethnic & racial diversity - ANI
 - Effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources - Strength

Summary of Strengths & Challenges

- Strengths
 - Services to prevent removal & address risk of harm
 - Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, and use of family team meetings/decision making
 - Timeliness of reunification
 - Efforts to place children close to their families, and with siblings
 - Efforts to address children's educational needs

Summary of Strengths cont.

- Strengths cont.
 - 6-month case reviews & timely permanency hearings
 - Foster/adoptive parent training & licensing
 - Ongoing partnerships with community

Summary of Strengths & Challenges

- Challenges
 - High caseloads for frontline social workers
 - Budget reductions that have impacted all areas of child welfare agency functioning (e.g., service array, staff training, and quality assurance)

CFSR Next Steps

- Develop Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
 - Develop with partners, stakeholders
 - Due 90 days from Final Report
 - Must be approved by Regional Office
- Implement PIP over next 2 years
- State will be reviewed again in 2 years

Iowa Child and Family Services Review Final Report

- Questions or Discussion?
- For a copy of the final report, as well as the statewide assessment, see DHS website at www.dhs.state.ia.us.